

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action of May 11, 2004, the Examiner entered amendments proposed by Applicants but maintained the rejection of claims 12-19 and 21 and maintained the objection to claim 20. In this preliminary amendment being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination, Applicants cancel claim 20 without prejudice while reserving the right to later pursue such claims, if desired. Applicants further amended claims 12, 17-19, and 21. Applicants deleted Figs. 10, 11, and 14-17 and amended the specification by deleting material related to these figures while renumbering references to Figs. 12, 13, 18 and 19 in the specification to be Figs. 10, 11, 12 and 13, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 12-19 and 21, which are currently pending, in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 12-19 and 21 as being unpatentable over Ida et al. and Goorhouse. In response, Applicants amend independent claim 12 to recite that the attached body is "a tape and that the base portions of the base plates of each of the plurality of pairs of snap elements are attached on a pair of tapes at a predetermined interval in a longitudinal direction of the tapes such that they oppose each other." Neither Ida et al. nor Goorhouse discloses, teaches or suggests that the attached body is a tape and a plurality of snap elements are disposed on the tape at a predetermined interval in a longitudinal direction of the tape. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 12 at least for the foregoing reasons. As claims 13-19 and 21 depend from independent claim 12, Applicants further request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of these

dependent claims as they are also allowable over the cited prior art for at least the foregoing reasons.

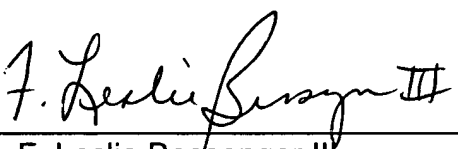
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 22, 2004

By: 
F. Leslie Bessenger III
Reg. No. 39/108

Attachments: Replacement Sheets - Figures 12, 13 and 18, and 19 (4 sheets)